

## On non-Continuous T-norms

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### Abstract :

This paper provides a precise parametric classification of both left and right semicontinuous T-norms along with the description of some features of T-norms without continuity assumptions.

**Keywords :** Partial order, continuity, binary relation

### 1- Introduction :

In fuzzy logics, T-norm means a binary operation  $T: [0; 1]^2 \rightarrow [0; 1]$  satisfying the following axioms.

$$(T1) T(y; x) = T(x; y) \leq T(\hat{x}; y) \quad \text{for any } 0 \leq x \leq \hat{x} \text{ and } 0 \leq y \leq 1$$

$$(T2) T(x; T(y; z)) = T(T(x; y); z) \quad \text{for any } 0 \leq x; y; z \leq 1$$

(T3)  $T(0; x) = 0$  and  $T(1; x) = x$  for any  $0 \leq x \leq 1$

Most authors<sup>[3,4,5]</sup> include also the continuity of  $T$  into the definition, and actually there is a complete classification for the continuous  $T$ -norms.

This paper focuses on the case of non-continuous  $T$ -norms. In another terminology, (T1), (T2), (T3) mean that the algebraic structure  $T := ([0; 1]_{\bullet}^T, \geq)$  with the binary operation.

$$x \bullet^T y = T(x; y), x; y \in [0; 1]$$

Is an ordered Abelian semigroup on  $[0;1]$  with neutral element 1 and sink 0. Also, in accordance with the usual terminology, we say that the  $T$ -norm  $\bullet^T$  is strict if (T4)  $T(x_1; y) < T(x_2; y)$  whenever  $0 \leq x_1 < x_2 \leq 1$  and  $0 < y \leq 1$

In the sequel we shall fix an arbitrary  $T$ -norm<sup>T</sup>, and we shall write simply  $xy$  instead of  $x \bullet^T y$  without danger of confusion with the notation of the usual numerical product of real numbers (which may appear only as a simple special case of continuous  $T$ -norm). thus, in this terminology axioms (T1)... (T4) mean simply

$$(T1) xy = yx, (T2) x(yz) = (xy)z, (T3) 0x = 0 \leq 1x = x, (T4) x_1 y < x_2 y (x_1 < x_2; y \neq 0)$$

We shall also use the customary notation  $a_n$  for the  $n$ -th  $\bullet^T$ -power  $a^n =$

$\underbrace{a \dots a}_{n \text{ terms}}$  which is well – defined by the associativity (T2).

**Main Results:**

**1.1. Definition:** The binary relations  $\ll$  on the interval  $[0;1]$  is introduced as follows :

$$a \ll b \Leftrightarrow \inf_n a^n \leq \inf_n b^n; a \sim b : \Leftrightarrow a \ll b \ll a$$

**1.2. Lemma.** (1) the relation  $\ll$  is a linear ordering with  $a \ll b$  for  $a \leq b$ . In particular,  $\sim$  is an equivalence relation whose equivalence classes are subintervals of  $[0,1]$ .

(2) for any power  $N$  we have  $a^N \sim a$ .

(3) We have  $ab \sim \min\{a, b\}$

Proof: As a consequence of axioms (T1) + (T3) the powers

$$T^{(n)}(x) = x^n \quad (n = 1, 2, \dots)$$

are increasing functions  $[0,1] \rightarrow [0,1]$  with  $T^{(1)} \geq T^{(2)} \geq T^{(3)} \geq \dots$

Therefore their limit  $T^{(\infty)}$  is a well-defined with

$$T^{(\infty)}(x) = \inf_n x^n \quad (0 \leq x \leq 1)$$

By definition, we have  $a \ll b$  iff  $T^{(\infty)}(a) \leq T^{(\infty)}(b)$ . Since the limit of increasing functions is increasing, statement (1) is immediate.

(2) We have  $T^{(\infty)}(a^N) = \lim_n a^{Nn} = \lim_n a^n = T^{(\infty)}(a)$ .

(3) We may assume  $a \leq b$  without loss of generality. Then  $a^2 \leq ab \leq a \cdot 1 = a$ . Since  $a \sim a^2$  by (2), and since the equivalence classes of  $\sim$  are intervals by (1), we conclude  $a^2 \sim ab \sim a = \min\{a, b\}$ .

Henceforth we introduce the notations

$$\mathfrak{I} := \{I_\alpha : \alpha \in A\} := \{\{x : x \sim a\} : a \in [0, 1]\}$$

for the family of all equivalence classes of the relation  $\sim$ . We know already that  $\mathfrak{I}$  is a set of pairwise disjoint intervals forming a partition of  $[0,1]$  such that  $I_\alpha \leq I_\beta$  and  $I_\alpha < I_\beta$  (i.e.  $a < b$  for all couples  $(a, b) \in I_\alpha \times I_\beta$ ) whenever  $a \leq b$  for some  $a \in I_\alpha$  and  $b \in I_\beta$ . We shall say simply that the point  $e \in [0,1]$  is an idempotent if it is idempotent with respect to the product  $T_\bullet$ , that is  $e^2 = e \bullet T(e, e) = e$ .

**1.3. Corollary:** (1) If the equivalence class  $I_\alpha$  is a left-closed interval then its initial point  $e := \min I_\alpha$  is an idempotent.

(2) If  $I_\alpha$  is a non-degenerate right-closed interval then its endpoint  $f := \max I_\alpha$  is no idempotent, moreover  $f > f^2 \geq f^3 \geq \dots \rightarrow \inf I$ .

(3) If  $I_\alpha$  is a non-degenerate right-open interval then  $f := \sup I_\alpha$  is an idempotent.

(4) if  $I_{\alpha_1} < I_{\alpha_2} < \dots$  is an increasing sequence in  $\mathfrak{I}$  then the point  $g := \sup(\cup_n I_{\alpha_n})$  is an idempotent.

**Proof:** (1) Assume  $I = \{x : x \sim e\}$  with  $e = \min I (\in I)$ . Then  $e = T^{(1)}(e) \geq T^{(2)}(e) = e^2$ . By Lemma 1.2(2) we have  $e^2 \sim e$  and hence  $e^2 \in I$  with  $e^2 \geq e = \min I$ .

However, in general  $e = T^{(1)}(e) \geq T^{(2)}(e) = e^2$ .

(2) Assume  $I = \{x : x \sim e\}$  with  $f = \max I (\in I)$ . Given any element  $x \in I$ , by definition we have  $x \sim e$  with  $\inf_n x^n = T^{(\infty)}(x) = T^{(\infty)}(e)$ . It follows

$$\inf\{x: x \sim f\} = \inf I = T^{(\infty)}(f)$$

Hence the case  $f = f^2$  is impossible because this would imply  $\inf I = T^{(\infty)}(f) = f$  contradicting the non-degeneracy of  $I$ . Thus necessarily  $f = If > f^2 = If^2 \geq f^3 \geq \dots \rightarrow T^{(\infty)}(f) = \inf I$ .

(3) Assume  $I = (x: x \sim e)$  with  $\sup I = f(\notin I)$ . By lemma 1.2(3), the contrary  $f^2 < f$  would imply the contraction  $f \sim f^2$  with  $f \in I$ .

(4) Assume the contrary that let  $g > g^2$ . Then  $g^2 < I_{an} < g$  for some index  $n$ . However, by Lemma 1.2(1)+(2), then we would have  $g^2 \sim x \sim g$  for all  $x \in I_{an}$  entailing the contradiction  $I_{an} > g \in I_{an}$ .

**1.4. Lemma.** *Let  $P: [0,1] \rightarrow [0,1]$  be an increasing backward projection (that is  $p(y) \leq P(x) = P(P(x)) \leq x$  whenever  $0 \leq y \leq x \leq 1$ ) onto the set  $\Omega$ . Then the complement  $[0,1] \setminus \Omega$  is the union of a family of pairwise disjoint left-open intervals and*

$$P(x) = \max (\Omega \cap [0,x]) \quad (x \in [0,1])$$

**Proof:** It suffices to see only that given any point  $x \in [0,1] \setminus \Omega$  with  $P(x) < x$ , every point  $y$  from the left-open interval  $(P(x), x]$  is mapped into  $P(x)$  by  $P$ . let  $P(z) < y < z$  by assumption,  $P$  is an increasing mapping with  $P = P \circ P$ . Hence the conclusion  $P(x) = P^2(x) \leq P(y) \leq P(x)$  entailing  $P(y) = P(x)$  is immediate. ■

**1.5. Lemma.** Given a  $T$ -idempotent  $e = e^2 < 1$ , with its multiplication range  $\Omega_e := \{ex: x \in [0,1]\}$  we have

$$ex = \max(\Omega_e[0,x]) \quad (0 \leq x \leq 1)$$

Also  $e = \max \Omega_e$  and  $[0,1] \setminus \Omega_e$  is the union of a family of pairwise disjoint left-open intervals.

**Proof.** According to (T1)+(T2), the mapping  $P_e(x) := ex$  is an increasing backward projection of  $[0,1]$  onto  $\Omega_e$ . indeed,  $ey \leq ex = (ee)x = e(ex)$  whenever  $0 \leq y \leq x \leq 1$ . Since  $w = Pe(w) \leq Pe(1) = e \leq \Omega_e$ , necessary  $e = \max \Omega_e$ . The remaining statements are immediate from Lemma 1.4. ■

**1.6 Lemma.** The set  $E = \{\text{idempotents}\}$  is left-closed that is  $E \ni e_n \nearrow e \Rightarrow e \in E$ .

**Proof.** Assume  $E \ni e_n \nearrow e$ . Then we have  $e \geq e^2 \geq e_n^2 = e_n \nearrow e$  entailing  $e = e^2 \in E$ . ■

**1.7. Proposition:** Let  $T$  be a strict  $T$ - norm. Then

- (1) the only idempotents are 0 and 1.
- (2) We have  $\{1\} = \{x: x \sim 1\}$  and either  $I = \{[0,1], \{1\}\}$ , or the interval  $\{x: x \sim 0\}$  is closed with  $\max \{x: x \sim 0\} < 1$  and each interval  $I_\alpha \in I$  with  $0,1 \notin I_\alpha$  is non-degenerate, open from left and closed from right.
- (3) there is no infinite strictly increasing sequence  $I_{\alpha_1} < I_{\alpha_2} < \dots$  with  $\sup(\cup_n I_{\alpha_n}) < 1$  in  $I$ .

**Proof:**

(1) Assume  $e \in (0,1)$  would be an idempotent. Then, by Lemma 1.5, we would have  $ex = e$  for all  $e < x \leq 1$  contradicting the strictness of T.

(2) is immediate from statement (1) and Corollary 1.3(1)+(3).

(3) is immediate from from statement (1) and Corollary 1.3(4). ■

**1.8. Corollary.** *Let T be a strict T-norm. Then there are two possibilities concerning the order structure of the family I of equivalence classes:*

(1)  $I = \{[0, 1), \{1\}\}$ ;

2-  $\{x: x \sim 0\} = [0, w]$  with  $0 < w < 1$  and the interval  $(w, 1)$  can be decomposed to a sequence of intervals  $(w_0, w_1], (w_1, w_2], \dots$ , with  $w_0 = w$  and  $w_n \nearrow 1$  ( $n \rightarrow \infty$ ) and each intervals  $(w_n, w_{n+1})$  is covered by the disjoint union of a (necessarily countable) subfamily  $\{I_\alpha: \alpha \in A_n\}$  of I being well-ordered by the relation  $<$ . Here order- consecutive intervals are joined at common endpoints.

Recall that a function  $\varphi: [0, 1]^N \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is said to be right [left] semicontinuous if  $\varphi(x_n^{(1)}, \dots, x_n^{(1)}) \rightarrow \varphi(x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(1)})$  whenever  $x_n^{(1)} \searrow x^{(1)} \dots x_n^{(1)} \searrow x^{(1)}$  [res  $x_n^{(1)} \nearrow x^{(1)}, \dots, x_n^{(1)} \nearrow x^{(1)}$ ]. It is that if  $\varphi$  is increasing then the right [left] semi-continuity of all the sections  $x \rightarrow \varphi(a_1, \dots, a_{k-1}, x, a_{k+1}, \dots, a_N)$  implies the right [left] semicontinuity of  $\varphi$ .

**1.9. Lemma:** *If  $N > 1$  and  $T^{(N)}$  is right semicontinuous (in particular if  $T$  is right semicontinuous) then all the intervals  $I_\alpha \in \mathfrak{I}$  are closed from left.*

**Proof.** Assume  $T^{(N)}$  to be right semicontinuous and let  $x \in I \in \mathfrak{I}$ . Define  $e := \inf I$  and consider the sequence  $x^N, x^{2N}, x^{3N}, \dots$ . By definition  $x^N \searrow T^{(\infty)}(x) = e$ . The right semicontinuity of  $T^{(N)}$  entails  $x^{nN} = T^N(x) \searrow T^{(N)}(e) = e^N$ . However, since  $(x^{nN})_{n=1}^\infty$  is a subsequence of  $(x^n)_{n=1}^\infty$ , we have  $e = \lim_n x^n = \lim_n x^{nN} = e^N$ . since  $e \geq e^2 \geq \dots \geq e^N$  it follows  $e^2 = e$  and hence  $e \in I$  by Corollary 1.4. ■

**1.10. Corollary.** *If  $T$  is a right semicontinuous strict  $T$ -norm then  $\mathfrak{I} = \{[0,1), \{1\}\}$ .*

**Proof.** Immediate from Proposition 1.6 and Lemma 1.7. ■

**\*\* Remark.** *Assuming the operation  $T$  to be continuous, we can conclude the following .*

- (1) The powers  $T^{(n)}$  ( $n = 1, 2, \dots$ ) are continuous increasing functions and hence their infimum  $T^{(\infty)}$  is left semicontinuous and increasing.
- (2) From (1) it readily follows that the intervals  $I_\alpha$  are closed from left with idempotent initial point.
- (3) It is well-known that the idempotents of a continuous  $T$ -norm form a closed subset of  $[0,1]$  whose complement is the union of a countable family of pairwise disjoint open intervals. Hence one can deduce that the intervals  $I_\alpha$  are either closed from the left and open from right or consist of a single



point which is necessarily an idempotent. The points of continuity of  $T^{(\infty)}$  are exactly the idempotents of a continuous T-norm.

## 2- Structure Of A Equivalence Intervals :

Henceforth let  $S := ([w, a], \cdot, \geq)$  be an ordered Abelian semigroup on the real intervals  $[w, a]$  such that :

(S1)  $xy_1 \leq xy_2$  whenever  $y_1 \leq y_2$ .

(S2)  $a > a^2 > a^3 > \dots$  and  $a^n \searrow w (n \rightarrow \infty)$

Since, by (S2),  $(w, a]$  is the disjoint union of the intervals  $(a^{n+1}, a^n]$  ( $n=1, 2, \dots$ ), for any element  $b \in (w, a]$  and for any index  $k = 1, 2, \dots$  we can define

$$n_k(b) := [n: a^{n+1} < b^k \leq a^n]$$

**2.1. Lemma.** *Given any  $b \in (w, a]$ , the intervals  $[n_k(b)/k, (n_k(b)+1)/k]$ ,  $k=1, 2, \dots$  have a unique common point.*

**Proof.** Since for the lengths we have  $|(n_k(b)/k, (n_k(b)+1)/k| = 1/k \rightarrow 0$  ( $k \rightarrow \infty$ ), at most one common point may exist. To establish its existence, according to Helly's theorem. It suffices to see that each pair of them admits a non-empty intersection, that is

$$(2.2) \quad n_k(b)/k \leq (n_l(b)+1)/l \quad \text{for all } k, l = 1, 2, \dots$$

Consider any couple of incides  $k \neq e$ . by definition,  $a^{n_k(b)+1} < b^k \leq a^{n_k(b)}$  and hence by (S1), also  $a^{\ell(n_k(b)+1)} \leq b^{k\ell} \leq a^{\ell n_k(b)}$ . Similarly  $a^{k(n_\ell(b)+1)} \leq b^{k\ell} \leq a^{kn_\ell(b)}$ . It follows  $a^{k(n_\ell(b)+1)} \leq b^{k\ell} \leq a^{\ell n_k(b)}$  and hence by (S2) we conclude  $k(n_\ell(b)+1) \geq \ell n_k(b)$  which is equivalent to (2.2). ■

**2.3. Definition.** Henceforth we write

$$L(b) := [the\ unique\ of\ \bigcap_{k=1}^{\infty} [n_k(b)/k, (n_k(b) + 1)/k]] \quad \text{for any } b \in (w, a]$$

Furthermore  $\Lambda := L((w, a])$  shall denote the range of the function L.

**2.4. Remarks :** (1)  $n_k(b) \in [[kL(b)] - 1, [kL(b)] + 1]$  for all  $k = 1, 2, \dots$  and  $b \in (w, a]$ . \*

(2) If  $b \in (a^{n+1}, a^n)$  then  $L(b) \in [n, n + 1]$ . In particular  $L(a^n) = n, (n = 1, 2, \dots)$

(3) the mapping L is decreasing trivially, but not necessarily strictly decreasing

Example:  $S := ((-\infty, 1], \cdot, \geq)$  with  $xy := [x] + [y]$  and  $L(b) = [b]$

**2.5. Lemma.** We have  $L(bc) = L(b) + L(c)$  for all  $b, c \in (w, a]$ .

**Proof.** According to Remark 2.4(1),  $L(bc) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} n_k(bc)/k$ . By definition,  $a^{n_k(b)} \geq b^k > a^{n_k(b)+1}$  and  $a^{n_k(c)} \geq c^k > a^{n_k(c)+1}$ . Hence  $a^{n_k(b)+n_k(c)} \geq (bc)^k \geq a^{n_k(b)+n_k(c)+2}$ . By the definition of the value  $n_k(bc)$  and axiom (S2) it follows  $n_k(b) + n_k(c) - 1 \leq n_k(bc) \leq n_k(c) + 3$ .

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\*  $[x] := \inf\{n \text{ integer} : x \leq n\}$  standing for the upper entier part function.

Therefore  $L(b) + L(c) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} (n_k(b) + n_k(c))/k = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} n_k(bc)/k = L(bc)$ . ■

## 2.6. Corollary :

- (1) *The range  $\Lambda$  of  $L$  is a subsemigroup of  $([1, \infty), +)$ .*
- (2) *In particular  $\Lambda$  is countable under the hypothesis that  $L$  is not strictly decreasing and  $(S1^*)$   $xy_1 < xy_2$  whenever  $y_1 \leq y_2$ .*
- (3)  *$\Lambda$  is Lebesgue – measurable. If it has positive Lebesgue measure, for some  $n$  we have  $[n, \infty) \subset \Lambda$ .*

### Proof.

- (1) Is immediate from Lemma 2.5.
- (2) The inverse Image  $L^{-1}\{\xi\} := \{b: L(b) = \xi\}$ ,  $\xi \in \Lambda$  are pairwise disjoint intervals since the function  $L$  is decreasing. If  $L$  is not strictly decreasing, some interval  $L^{-1}\{\xi_0\}$  has positive length. By 1.5 we have  $L^{-1}\{\xi_0 + \eta\} \supset L^{-1}\{\xi_0\} + L^{-1}\{\eta\}$  and  $L^{-1}\{\xi_0 + n\}$  is also a non-degenerate interval for any  $\eta \in \Lambda$  if  $(S1^*)$  holds. Since there may only be countably many pairwise disjoint non-degenerate real intervals, we conclude (2).
- (3) It is well-known that the range of a decreasing real function is a Borel set (actually a sequence of points added to an interval minus a countable union of intervals). In particular  $\Lambda = \text{range}(L)$  is Borel measurable. Suppose  $\text{mes}(\Lambda) > 0$  ( $\text{mes}$  denoting Lebesgue measure) then almost every point of  $\Lambda$  is Lebesgue point. In particular,  $\text{mes}(\Lambda \cap [\alpha, \beta]) > (\beta - \alpha)/2$

for some  $1 \leq \alpha < \beta$ . Recall that given any set  $\Omega$  of real numbers with density  $> 1/2$ , the sum  $\Omega + \Omega := \{\omega_1 + \omega_2 : \omega_1, \omega_2 \in \Omega\}$  contains an interval with positive length.\* Hence we conclude that  $\Lambda \supset \Lambda + \Lambda \supset (\Lambda \cap [\alpha, \beta]) + (\Lambda \cap [\alpha, \beta])$  contains some interval  $I$  of length  $\delta > 0$ . It is immediate that  $\Lambda \supset \Lambda + \dots + \Lambda$  with  $[1/\delta]$  terms contains the interval  $J := I + \dots + I$  with length  $> 1$ . According to Remark 2.4(2), we have  $\{1, 2, \dots\} \subset \Lambda$ . It follows  $\Lambda \supset \bigcup_{k=0}^{\infty} k + J \supset [[\inf J], \infty)$ . ■

2.7 Lemma. (1) If the underlying product is left semicontinuous [i. e.  $x_i y_i \nearrow xy$  whenever  $x_i \nearrow x$ ] then its logarithm  $L$  is also left semicontinuous.

(2) If the product is right semicontinuous then  $L$  is right semicontinuous.

**Proof:** Assume the product is left semicontinuous. It is well-Known that then we have even  $x_i y_i \nearrow xy$  whenever  $x_i \nearrow x$  and  $y_i \nearrow y$ .

(Indeed, given any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $j_0$  with  $xy \geq x y_{j_0} \geq xy - \varepsilon/2$ . Also there exists  $j_1 \geq j_0$  with  $x y_{j_0} \geq x_{j_1} y_{j_0} \geq x y_{j_0} - \varepsilon/2$  and hence  $xy \geq x_{j_1} y_{j_0} \geq xy - \varepsilon$ . Given any couple  $x_i \nearrow x$  resp.  $y_i \nearrow y$  of sequences, for any  $i \geq j_1$  we have  $xy \geq x_i y_i \geq x_{j_1} y_{j_0} \geq xy - \varepsilon$ ). In particular the powers  $b \mapsto b^k (k = 1, 2, \dots)$  are left semicontinuous. It follows that, for any fixed  $k$ , the step function  $b \mapsto n_k(b)$  is left semicontinuous. Prrof : Fix  $k$  arbitrarily. Since the power  $b \mapsto b^k$  is increasing, the function,  $n_k$

\*Proof. We may assume

$\Omega \supset [\alpha, \beta] \setminus \bigcup_{k=1}^{\infty} I_k$  where  $I_1, I_2, \dots$  are pairwise disjoint open intervals with  $\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \text{mes}(I_k) = (\beta - \alpha)(1/2 - \varepsilon)$  for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ . The vertical resp.

Horizontal stripes  $I_k \times [\alpha, \beta]$  and  $[\alpha, \beta] \times I_k, k = 1, 2, \dots$  cut most  $2(1/2 - \varepsilon)\sqrt{2}(\beta - \alpha)$  length from the diagonal segments  $D_p := \{(\omega_1, \omega_2) : \alpha \leq \omega_1, \omega_2 \leq \beta, \omega_1 + \omega_2 = p\}$  which have length  $> \sqrt{2}(\beta - \alpha - \varepsilon)$  whenever  $p \in (\alpha + \beta - \varepsilon, \alpha + \beta + \varepsilon)$ . Therefore  $\Omega + \Omega \supset (\alpha + \beta - \varepsilon, \alpha + \beta + \varepsilon)$ .

(.)decreases.Consider a sequence  $b_i \nearrow b > \omega$ . Since  $\omega < \inf_i b_i \leq a$ , the decreasing sequence  $\{n_k(b_i): i = 1,2, \dots\}$  is bounded. Since  $n_k(\cdot)$

Assumes integer values, there is

$i_0$  with  $n_k(b_i) = N := \lim_i n_k(b_i)$  for  $i \geq i_0$ . Then  $a^{N+1} = a^{n_k(b_i)-1} < b_i^k \leq a^{n_k(b_i)} = a^N$  for any  $i \geq i_0$ . It follows  $a^{N+1} > b \geq a^N$  which means that  $n_k(b) = N$  i.e.  $n_k(b_i) \nearrow N = n_k(b)$ . On the other hand the sequence  $n_k(\cdot)/k (k = 1,2, \dots)$  converges uniformly to  $L(\cdot)$  (actually  $\sup_b |L(b) - n_k(b)/k| \leq 1/k$  for all  $k$ ). Hence we deduce that left semicontinuity of  $L$ , because, in general, the uniform limit of  $\tau$ -continuous functions is  $\tau$ -continuous for any topology  $\tau$ . Thus, in particular  $L$  is left semicontinuous. The proof

of (2) is analogous with the step functions  $\tilde{n}_k(b) := [n: a^n \leq b^k < a^{n-1}]$  in place of  $n_k(\cdot)$ . ■

**2.8 Lemma.** For any  $c \in (\omega, a]$ , the functions  $n_k^c(b) := [n : c^{n+1} < b^k \leq c^n]$  and  $L^c(b) := \lim_k n_k^c(b)/k$  are well – defined, moreover we have  $L^c = L(c)^{-1} L$  in terms of the logarithm function defined in 1.3.

**Proof.**  $S^c = ((w,c], \dots, \geq)$  is an ordered subsemigroup of  $S = ((w,a], \dots, \geq)$ . Hence we can apply the previous arguments with  $c$  in place of  $a$  to establish that all the function  $n^c$  along with  $L^c$  are well-defined and decreasing. By definition we have  $c_k^{n_k(b)+1} < b^k < c_k^{n_k(b)}$ , whence  $(n_k^c(b) + 1) L(c) = L(c^{n_k(b)+1}) > L(b^k) = kL(b) > L(c^{n_k(b)}) = n_k^c(b) L(c)$ .

Since  $L^c(b) = \lim_k n_k^c(b)/k$ , we get  $L^c(b) L(c) > L(b) > L^c(b) L(c)$ . ■

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